



MONTEREY NEWS

September 2006
VOLUME XXXVI • Number 9



The Town

Town Clerk

The ongoing dispute about access to the Town Hall vault continues. Town Clerk Barbara Swann is concerned about security, Fire Chief Ray Tryon is concerned about the fire hazard, various town employees and town board members are concerned about timely access to the storage files in the absence of the Town

Clerk, and the Select Board is concerned about the disposition of outdated and unneeded documents.

Legally, the Town Clerk is allowed ten days to fulfill requests for stored files in the vault, which, when added to her offsite location, can cause delays in retrieving necessary records. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and Director of Operations Maynard Forbes have had keys to the room so they can fetch documents requested by

the public in Swann's absence, but there are reports that Swann objects to their access to the records on security grounds. Thus, at Swann's request, a bolt on the inside of the vault door was installed so only the Town Clerk and her assistant can have access.

In an effort to resolve this continuing dispute, Select Board member Wayne Burkhart met with Swann, who said she would like town records to be stored at the



Hy Rosen

David Grover & the Big Bear Band entertaining at Lakefest 2006, August 19.

Wilson McLaughlin House. More senior members of the Select Board told Burkhart that this request has been discussed, and that the \$100,000 price tag renders it unacceptable, particularly since the Secretary of the Commonwealth has already stated that a town the size of Monterey is not expected to have a records storage area of such large dimensions.

The Town Clerk asserts that the current storage area is not large enough for all of the town records, but a number of longtime parties to this dispute argue that no one knows the size of the area required for permanent storage since no one has been able to access the records.

Select Board member Jon Sylbert noted the need to find secure space for certain records kept by the Treasurer, Accountant, Tax Collector, and the various boards and commissions that need to refer to old documents.

Sylbert has been in touch with Berkshire Mediation Services, and will talk with two other such agencies so that the

town can have outside professional mediation in all personnel conflicts.

Highway Department

At the end of a balmy August, it might be hard to recall that in late July weather conditions were so hot and humid that Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported he had to change the work hours to 6 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. to help his highway crew beat the heat.

The Highway Department finished most of its work on Sandisfield Road in mid-August when all of the road crossings and culverts were done, save for the one culvert that crosses the local water company's driveway. When the water company does their fall hookup, the Highway Department will return to finish that culvert. In late August the Department will pave over the spots on the road that were dug up during the repairs.

The River Road bridge project is moving along. It should be open, although not finished, sometime in November. Because of the steep increase in blacktop costs, Curtiss Road's needs will be addressed next year.

Fairview Road resident Larry Klein told the Select Board at its August 21st meeting that Fairview had become unsafe. After asking when work would begin on Fairview, he learned that the Highway Department planned to start work on the road after Labor Day. Select Board Chair

Michael Storch noted Klein's concerns to Forbes.

Forbes reported complaints made to his department about goose droppings at the town beach. Local resident Jules Dahlman pitched in to clean up because he and others believed that the Park Commission was not helpful. Forbes asked the Select Board why the Park Commission, which oversees mowing at two of the three parking lots by the beach, does not do the same for the beach overflow lot.

In a discussion about the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Burkhart explained that the committee has been inactive since Forbes took charge of the transfer station. Given contemporary circumstances, questions were raised about disbanding the Solid Waste committee.

In other areas, Forbes reported that the Highway Department contracted with Lipton Oil for \$2.53 per gallon of heating oil for the coming winter. The status of the ballpark light continues unresolved. As per instructions from an inspection, a sump pump was installed in the elevator at Town Hall.

Forbes told the Select Board that the catch basin across the road from Chuck Mielke's house on Blue Hill Road was cleaned and rebuilt in 2001, and that it appeared to be running clear in a recent inspection, so he does not understand Mielke's report of a problem.

After Gerry Shapiro notified the



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were cleaned and residents refrained from using pesticides, phosphates, and fertilizers on their lawns, weed growth could be controlled.

Hearing on Mt. Hunger Project

The Select Board conducted a public hearing on July 31 on earth removal at the Alpert property on Mt. Hunger Road. Contractor Stephan D'Alessio said that because of the steepness of the grade, about 3500 cubic yards of earth were removed, although approximately 2500 yards were replaced with clean fill. The contractor disposed of the debris in three trucks for two weeks, amounting to perhaps 350 truckloads. After noting that the contractor had removed material in excess of the town limitation of 500 cubic yards, the Select Board unanimously granted them the appropriate permit. No abutters or other interested parties were present at the hearing.

At a later Select Board meeting, Conservation Commission (ConCom) member Chris Blair updated the Select Board on this same question of the large-scale excavations on the Alpert project as it relates to the Scenic Mountain Act. The

ConCom had issued a stop-work order on the excavation because the work had far exceeded the parameters of the required permit. The contractor was told to remedy the situation under the conditions imposed by the Scenic Mountain Act, and he and the owner are taking action to remedy the issues. In the meantime, neighbors have also brought legal action against the lot owners because of the height of a wall being built.

Blair pointed out that the intention of the town bylaw regulating earth removal, passed more than 32 years ago, was to control quarrying. Members of the Select Board discussed whether the 500-cubic-yard limitation on excavation is too low a benchmark now that very large houses are becoming the norm. The property in question has a permit to build a 6500-sq.-ft. house. Storch suggested that the bylaw be revised.

Police Department

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported a complaint about a Tyringham resident who left three bags of garbage at the town beach. The individual was notified that a heavy fine would be levied were such an act to be committed again.

Backhaus's reports from late July through late August included two disabled vehicles, towing of an abandoned vehicle on River Road, retrieval of a boat thought

to be stolen, a medical call assistance at Camp Half Moon, a breaking and entering on Route 57, an abandoned 911 call on Bidwell Road, a motor vehicle "hit and run" (a dead fawn) on Pixley Road, an accident in front of the General Store, found money in the parking lot of the General Store, a report of a loose dog chasing runners, four false alarms, an accident on Gould Road, assistance on a medical call on Main Road, two dog bites on Hupi Road, a bear cub loitering around New England Keswick on Chestnut Hill Road, a lockout, a "well being" check on Mt. Hunger Road, helping a citizen out of gas at the boat launch, and the location of two lost dogs.

A woman reported that a nude man in his 50s approached her daughters as they were swimming in the River Road swimming hole, causing the Police Department to patrol the area on a frequent basis.

After a complaint about a dog at the beach led to its removal, Backhaus said he would check with Town Counsel for help in interpreting a blanket law within Massachusetts General Law that says that the Chief of Police can enforce any violation of town ordinance or bylaw.

Park Commission

Citizen complaints about goose droppings on the town beach continued to bedevil the Park Commission. Their

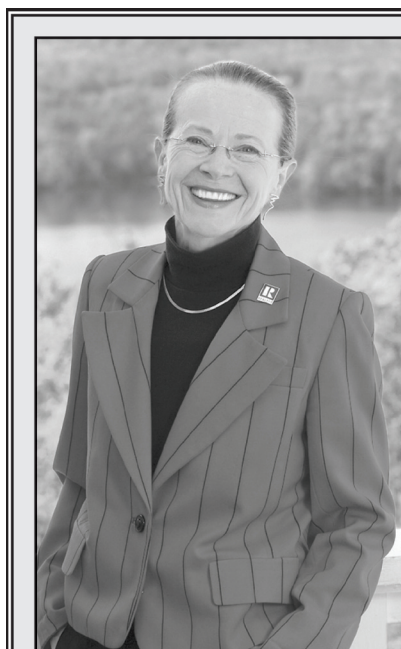
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chairman, Leroy Thorpe, informed the Select Board that complaints must be presented to the commission itself, not simply to an individual who sits on the commission. Thorpe said that members of the public who have issues about beach maintenance or any other task falling within the Park Commission's jurisdiction are asked to make their complaints at the commission's meeting, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. A citizen in attendance at a Select Board meeting noted that the list of Park Commission members on the Town Hall website does not list Thorpe as a commission member.

Don Coburn and Dean Amidon presented a letter about the goose droppings situation that they sent to the Select Board, the Board of Health, and the Park Commission. As they noted, the goose droppings battle has been waged for many years with varying degrees of success. As they understood it, this year the lifeguards were not instructed to clean up the droppings but no one seems to have been appointed to do so in their place. Coburn and Amidon also presented a petition signed by numerous beachgoers concerned about the situation.

Frustrations abound about the legal status of dogs on the beach. The Park Commission prohibits dogs on the beach (see p. 7), although the town bylaws do not expressly prohibit them. Select Board chairman Michael Storch has recommended that the town bylaws be amended at the next town meeting to specifically exclude dogs from the beach and the parks, with specific fines imposed for violations.



Maynard Forbes

River Road bridge deconstruction.

Wilson McLaughlin House

Joe Baker, representing the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH), told the Select Board that after extensive discussions of various options and looking at all possibilities, the committee has settled on a concept for the community center from architect Steve McAlister.

Baker said that the committee has spent all of the seed money raised last winter, and is now gearing up for a capital campaign to be kicked off on August 27 at a private gathering. The public kickoff will be on Labor Day weekend as part of the I Love Monterey celebration. Baker publicly thanked the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, which gave the FWMH a \$5000 matching grant to jumpstart the capital campaign.

Sylbert raised a number of questions about Select Board oversight of the project, disagreeing with the other two Select Board members, who believe that it is impossible for the architect or the committee to provide precise construction details at this early stage of the process. The Select Board notified Baker in writing that they unanimously approved of Phase I of the renovation plan, as well as the concept of an addition, as per their lease agreement. They noted that any development beyond those specified for Phase I must have the written approval of the Select Board.

Baker noted that some trees will need to be removed during the renovation, and asked how the committee should proceed

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with that. He also asked about having the community center listed as an additional "named insured" on the town's general liability insurance policy.

Assessors' Maps

Tim Fountain of Cartographic Associates gave a visual presentation of the new assessors' maps, instructing the audience on how to use the new maps, how to integrate them with the old maps, and how the maps are maintained and updated. Representatives of various town boards and commissions attended this portion of the Select Board meeting on August 14. Fountain reported that the maps are accurate even though exact property lines may be inaccurate without surveys. An attempt was made to read a deed on every property in town, although some, such as historic sites and churches, could not be located. The new map is a "seamless composite" of the entire town, with no gaps in between the 43 new submaps. Fountain cautioned that the new maps are for assessments only, not for legal or conveyance purposes. The maps are modeled on the Massachusetts State Plane Coordinate System, and are now part of a geographic information system.

Software to view the data will be bought by the town. Residents who dispute the new assessors' map should work directly with Cartographics, which will provide free service for such disputes until mid-August 2007. Landowners who have a dispute should get the appropriate forms from the assessors' office.

This and That

In response to requests from town employees, Sylbert recommended that the Select Board establish an Employee

Compensation Committee that would include two full-time employees, one Select Board member (Storch "volunteered"), one Finance Committee member, and one citizen. Sylbert pointed out that recommendations for salary and compensation would have to be made prior to January so they can be adopted before the budget sheets go to the Finance Committee for next year's budget.

Town Secretary Melissa Noe reported on complaints from town residents about noise from construction. Town bylaws do not include prohibitions on noise, although Police Chief Backhaus said that state law provides noise protection on Sundays.

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier said that auditor Kevin Fox asked the Select Board to send him a letter about the town audit so he can prepare the final report. Storch said he had questions about implementing some of Fox's suggestions.

After objections from the Town Clerk about various appointments procedures, the Select Board noted that it is the official body to nominate the Inspector of Animals, while the appointment is made by the Department of Agricultural Resources' Bureau of Health. The Select Board designates the Dog Officer. When the Dog Officer's duties expand to include wildlife, the officer's title can be changed to Animal Control Officer/Dog Officer. Nora Hayes has been appointed as the Animal Control Officer/Dog Officer. Ray Tryon said that beaver control on town property is a necessity.

Steve Peplowski of PermiTech addressed the Select Board about his company's software that could be used by the Building Department.

Maggie Leonard, Planning Board Chair, raised the issue of a preliminary

subdivision application made last August by Steepleview for West Road. Since the Planning Board has not received a plan for this area, Leonard, on behalf of the Planning Board, wondered about the reason for complaints made by abutters concerning the frequent coming and going of trucks. No town officials or boards are aware of a plan submitted by Steepleview for this property. (See article p. 8.)

Kenn Basler, owner of the Monterey General Store, asked the Select Board for guidance on what kind of permits he needs prior to private events. He also asked if he needs permits for his popular Thursday Night Music Series. He was told to check with the Fire Department for maximum occupancy limits, and with the Board of Health on septic questions.

Julio Rodriguez, a member of Friends of Lake Garfield, thanked the Select Board, the Fire Department, and many others in town for their cooperation on yet another excellent Lakefest.

During its August 21 meeting, the Select Board voted unanimously to go immediately into executive session, with Town Counsel Jerry Scully and Town Secretary Melissa Noe in attendance.

The Town Secretary will not be available and Town Hall will be closed from Monday, August 28, through Monday, September 4, reopening on Tuesday September 5.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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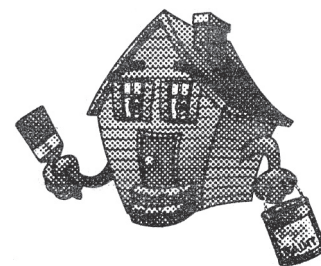
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Corrections from Monterey Park Commission

We are writing to correct mistakes in the August 2006 issue of the *Monterey News*. The piece on page 4, regarding the Park Commission, has two errors.

1. Garbage Issue: The Park Commission has NOT “told residents that it has no trash barrels so that people should take their trash home with them.”

We have always suggested that those who enjoy the beach take home their own trash. However, since mid-June, when the beach “officially” opened, there have been 4 trashcans—2 are quite large, 2 are smaller, with one of those designated for glass/plastic. These are picked up three times a week.

Nevertheless, household garbage is not, and never has been, accepted at the beach.

2. Dog Issue: The statement that LeRoy Thorpe stated, “While dogs are permitted on the beach, their feces are not,” is a complete inaccuracy (and this inaccuracy was confirmed by Select Board Member Michael Storch, who was at the meeting where this was reported). There are several signs at Lake Garfield beachfront stating, very clearly, “NO DOGS.”

The Park Commission also asked the Board of Health to help them out to explain to citizens and guests as to why dogs are not allowed; therefore there was a letter in the July 2006 *Monterey News* from John Makuc, DVM, who outlined this issue.

To clarify, DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE BEACH OR THE PARK AROUND THE BEACH at any time.

— Monterey Park Commissioners
LeRoy Thorpe, Chandler Crawford,
Valerie Zantay, Andrew Shaw

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- No waterskiing/boarding/tubing without at least 2 people in the boat (driver and spotter).
- Be courteous to non-powered boats as they have the right-of-way.
- Always travel in a counterclockwise direction when pulling a skier/rider, and at other times when possible.
- No watercraft shall be operated recklessly or dangerously.
- No watercraft shall be operated in a noisy or obnoxious manner.
- No operating a motorboat or PWC within 150 ft. of any public or private swimming area.
- No operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) when within 150 ft. of a swimmer, water-skier, dock, float or mooring area, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Skippers are responsible for damage

News from the Tree Warden

The voters at last May's town meeting graciously voted to appropriate \$6500 for the planting and care of new town trees. I want to branch out to all locations in town and need your help in finding where you would like trees planted. Also, it would be helpful to have your assistance in watering them during the hot summer months for two years. If these trees wind up being planted on your lawn, then they would be close to your water supply.

With permission of the Select Board I would like to form a group of people interested in developing a landscape plan for our new Town Hall. I believe Monterey's townspeople have a lot of talent in this category, and I would like your input.

— Roger Tryon, Tree Warden

caused by their wakes, so reduce speed when appropriate.

- U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vests are required for each person.
- No operating any vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Report all unsafe boating activities to the Monterey Police (528-3211) or the Lake Garfield Harbormaster (Dean Amidon, 528-1233).

For more information about Massachusetts Safe Boating regulations: <http://boat-ed.com/ma/handbook>.

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Times. Three outstanding American authors discuss recently published work: Charles C. Mann, *1491*; George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*; and Karen Russell, *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*.

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Planning Board News

The reporting for the Planning Board has been a bit sporadic this summer, and after a brief hiatus we are happy to be back in the *Monterey News*. The past two months have been busy for the Planning Board, with the usual summertime rush of special permit applications and the occasional survey to review.

Recent Planning Board meetings have been punctuated by visits from the residents of West Road, a small subdivision off Route 57 across from Blue Heron Landing. West Road is a subdivision of houses on small deteriorating roads and predates the enactment of the Subdivision Control Regulations (May 9, 1974). Some of West Road residents have come to our meetings with concerns about a potential new subdivision that will abut their subdivision. The land in question is between Route 57 and Route 23 and also abuts the Stevens Lake subdivision. The landowner is Steepleview, which submitted a Preliminary Plan for a subdivision to the Planning Board in August 2005.

Submission of a Preliminary Plan is a way for the developer to bring a project before the Planning Board, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission for information and feedback. A developer can see if a project is viable from the standpoint of the Subdivision Control Regulations before investing in engineering and excavating or road building. A preliminary plan does not include

the extensive engineering that a Definitive Plan must have. In fact, it is not mandatory to submit a Preliminary Plan to the Planning Board at all, but it is certainly to the developers' advantage to do so. The Planning Board may give a Preliminary Plan its approval, but such approval does not constitute approval of a subdivision. Additionally, submission of a Preliminary Plan does not require the notification of abutters or a public hearing.

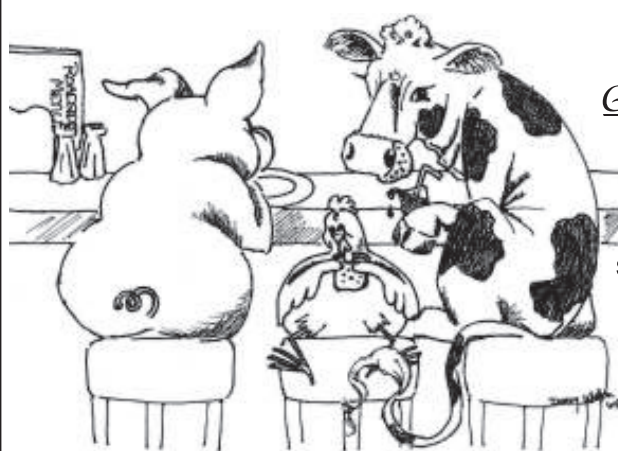
At this point the proposed Steepleview subdivision site is a privately owned piece of land where someone has had the *idea* for a subdivision. To date there has been zero follow-up from Steepleview, and no Definitive Plan has been submitted. Abutters have expressed concern to the Planning Board about activity on the land, including truck traffic on West Road. As a board we have responded that the individual who purchased the land has every right to work on that land, whether it's tree and brush removal or excavation. Of course any removal of earth exceeding 500 cubic yards requires an Earth Removal permit from the Select Board. No such permit having been requested from the Select Board, we have to assume that if excavation is occurring it is simply moving the earth around on the property. The Planning Board has no purview for investigating the activities of a private landowner doing work on his or her land. In fact, a board member on the snoop could be arrested for trespassing on private property.

A Definitive Plan for a subdivision must be prepared by a professional civil engineer and land surveyor, and requires an extensive list of items such as a listing of all existing and proposed streets and easements; existing and proposed topography; proposed layout of storm drains, water supply, and sewage disposal systems; an impact statement; an erosion and sedimentation control plan; and review by the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission, to name just a few. Prior to any approval, modification, or disapproval of the Definitive Plan a public hearing must be held and all owners of abutting land must be notified two weeks prior to the public hearing.

When—and if—a Definitive Plan is submitted, the Planning Board will be relying on our Highway Superintendent for road building expertise, as well as professional engineering consultants for advice on topography and geologic conditions affecting drainage. The Planning Board is confident that by following the Subdivision Control Regulations new neighborhoods can be created that will add to the beauty and diversity of our community.

— Maggie Leonard

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Community Center News Capital Campaign Begins

Labor Day weekend marks the official kickoff of the Capital Campaign to raise the funds needed for the creation of the Monterey Community Center. Enthusiastic town citizens have organized a big tag sale on Saturday September 2, to benefit the project. The Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House is counting on the fact that everyone loves a good tag sale, and while you are hunting for treasures, you can stop by our table to see the preliminary architectural plans that we have developed. We looked at many, many different options and considered everything we could think of, and out of it all emerged a plan that elicited a "YES! That's it!" from committee members. Now we want to show it to you. In addition, it is our good fortune to have George Packer, author of *The Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq*, speaking on Sunday, September 3, with proceeds to benefit the Community Center project. Please see details for these events and the I Love Monterey Day Parade on this page and on p. 10.

The Monterey Preservation Land Trust, which donated \$1,000 to FWMH back in January, recently gave an additional \$5,000 as a matching grant. In addition to being a project about creating a long sought-after community center for the town, this project is about land preservation. By developing a building that will be used for municipal purposes, we are fulfilling the stipulations of Edith



George Packer to Speak at Meetinghouse

New Yorker writer and best-selling author George Packer will be speaking at the Monterey Meetinghouse on Sunday, September 3, at 4 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Monterey Community Center. Packer is the author of the critically acclaimed book *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*, which documents the unfolding of events that led up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq and reveals the background and personalities of the people involved in those

Wilson's bequest and securing the 28.6-acre parcel for the town.

The FWMH would also like to announce that the Co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee will be Laurily Epstein and Maggie Leonard. These two women have been enthusiastic about the project from the beginning, each of them stepping forward to suggest their own individual projects (Laurily: tag sale; Maggie: George Packer) back in the winter, long before there even was such a committee.

— Susan Sellew

events. Packer has recently appeared on *The Daily Show*, *The Al Franken Show*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Lehrer Report*, and, he has spoken at such venues as the Commonwealth Club of California and the Council on Foreign Relations.

One of the great things about hearing Packer discuss Iraq is that he doesn't have an agenda. Neither hawk nor dove, his political ornithology is more carrier pigeon than anything else. He first went to Iraq in July 2003 and has returned several times to travel the country, despite the danger. He strives to understand the players and the policies, and returns to write it as he sees it.

George Packer is one of the hardest working people in journalism; he definitely doesn't have a tan. He does, however, find time between chapters and articles to hike, bike, and cross country ski while at his home in Monterey. George was recently married to Laura Secor, who is also a writer and works at *The New York Times*.

Considering that George has been on a very demanding book tour, I thought it was particularly nervy to ask him to speak at the Monterey Meetinghouse. (Actually he was asked before the book tour so maybe that helped.) Anyway, in his generous and charming way he instantly agreed to do it. We are fortunate to have him share his experiences with us in Monterey.

This lecture by George Packer, one of many events celebrating I Love Monterey weekend, is part of the fundraising for the nascent Community Center. Suggested donation for the event is \$20. Please plan on attending this lecture by one of the finest minds in journalism.

— Maggie Leonard

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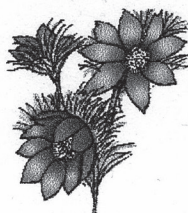
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Join the Parade!

A highlight of the I Love Monterey celebration on Saturday, September 2, will be a do-it-ourselves parade, which will form up at Sandisfield Road/Main Road at 11 a.m. and then proceed at 11:30 down Main Road and all the way through the center of town to the Firehouse. Entrants are still pouring in (being rounded up) as this goes to press, but a partial, tentative, incomplete list of the many colorful floats, odd vehicles, and just odds includes:

- Grand Marshall and General Store guru Ken Basler on some form of transport.
- Monterey Selectpeople, Planning Board, and other town boards, some on the hoof, some on appropriate floats
- Monterey Coffee Club (you think you know odd)
- Fish Hatchery (wait until you see how this is done)
- Land Trust is doing something(?) on a Gould Farm hay wagon.
- Community Center has what is described as an elaborate float in progress
- Bidwell House will try to send interns in colonial dress.
- Reading Teens
- Knitters
- Friends of Lake Garfield?
- Dual Homeowners?
- Rawson Brook Farm (can always be counted on for something unique)
- Monterey News (may be old news)
- Nora Hayes with hounds
- Gould Farm (always up to something)

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

Community Center Benefit Tag Sale

The Monterey Community Center tag sale, on Saturday September 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is your chance to do some serious bargain hunting whilst contributing to the well being of our town. Dozens of Monterey citizens, plus friends who live elsewhere, have donated thousands of items—bunk beds, sailboats, televisions, coffee cups, antiques, collectibles, “junque,” a car (yes! a car!), small appliances, tables, chairs, dressers, cabinets, lamps, luggage, quilts, decorative pillows, toys, jewelry, rugs, bric-a-brac, stuffed animals, soup crocks, wire racks, baking utensils, mismatched glassware, matched glassware, canoes, and, should we ever fig-

- Bob Duffy in a vintage Dodge
- Ag Commission—the Love Float
- Greenhaven Farm (always fresh)
- And you, dear reader?

Master parade organizer Ellen Pearson will be the Master of Ceremonies from the Meetinghouse steps (announcing each entry with colorful descriptions).

Entrants (and everyone is welcome) should line up at 11:00 a.m. at Sandisfield Road; the parade will proceed at 11:30, ending at the Firehouse Pavilion, where the grand tag sale will still be in progress.

Tag Sale Volunteers Needed

We really Really, REALLY need volunteers to help us at the tag sale. We need people for each table, people to “floor walk,” people to serve guard duty at entrances and exits, people of all sizes, shapes, and ages, so long as they can make correct change. To volunteer, please call Laury Epstein, 528-0577, or Sharon Magruder, 528-4315.

ure out the logistics, a llama. All proceeds go directly to the Monterey Community Center, sponsored by the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House.

For those who take their tag sales Very Seriously, there is an “early bird, cherry-picking” session from 8–9 a.m., with a \$10 admission fee.

But the tag sale is only part of the all-day I Love Monterey Day celebration. Don’t miss the Ellen Pearson-directed parade, proceeding at 11:30 a.m. through town to the Firehouse Pavilion, where lunch selections will be offered by Gould Farm, the Monterey General Store, and Greenhaven Farm.

I Love Monterey Day continues at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner and shindig sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. And on Sunday, September 3, Monterey resident and critically acclaimed author George Packer will give a talk at the Monterey Meetinghouse, with proceeds donated to the Monterey Community Center.

Please join in for one or all of the activities planned to celebrate our unique and endearing community.



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Shindig 2006 Features Potluck, Music, and Dancing

After the Tag Sale and the Parade on September 2, join in the Cultural Council's contribution to I Love Monterey Day—the second biannual *Shindig*. Everyone is invited to bring a contribution to the potluck dinner that will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Pavilion. Although food assignments are by the first letter of your last name—A–E are asked to bring desserts, F–K salads, L–Q appetizers/snacks, and R–Z main dishes/casseroles—all tasty offerings in any category will be gratefully accepted. We also ask that you bring a serving utensil for your contribution and place settings for yourselves. Paper goods will be available, however, and we will also provide drinks, thanks to the General Store. The popular father-daughter duo Sammy and Hailey Brown will entertain with music in the gazebo during dinner.

From 7:00–8:30 there will be contra and square dancing in the Pavilion accompanied by live music by the Konkaplunkers—a Monterey community pickup band—called by Joe Baker and Karl Finger. No previous dancing experience is necessary, as the callers will teach as they go, and observers are welcome as well.

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Wizard of Oz Production at BTF to Benefit Schools

The educational enrichment funds for all thirteen school districts in Berkshire County, with the professional help of the Berkshire Theatre Festival's education program, will present a special musical production of L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wizard of Oz* on the Berkshire Theatre Festival's Main Stage in Stockbridge on Friday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, September 9, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the performances will benefit the endowment funds administered through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation's Education Enrichment Initiative.

Approximately 110 children from local public schools are participating in the project as actors, musicians, backstage crew, technical support, and usher staff. Veteran BTF Artistic Associate E. Gray Simons III will direct the musical.

Our Eagle Fund of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District will be one of the beneficiaries. This coming school year the Eagle Fund, along with Janet's Fund, will be awarding approximately \$30,000 in grants for special projects to enhance the educational experience of the children in our school district. Both teachers and students applied for these competitively awarded grants. Because the Eagle Fund is an endowment fund, the availability of grant monies will be a

Cultural Council News

Cultural Council Grant Applications for 2007

October 16 is the state's deadline for grant applications to the cultural council. Each year the Massachusetts Cultural Council allocates funds to each town in the state to make its own grants to arts, humanities, and interpretive science projects that benefit the immediate community. Applications are available at Town Hall as well as on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website, which also provides guidelines for applicants: www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Public Input Meeting

Monterey Cultural Council meetings are open to the public, but each year the Council designates a specific public input meeting for community feedback and ideas. This year's meeting will be Wednesday, October 25, at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

permanent fixture in our community for future generations.

On Friday night, September 8, the four enrichments funds of South County also will be holding a "Chinese Auction" with fabulous prizes to be won.

General admission tickets are \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. To purchase tickets call 413-298-5576 or go to www.berkshiretheatre.org.

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Talk on Stone Walls at Bidwell House

Robert M. Thorson, professor of geology at the University of Connecticut and author of *Stone By Stone: The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls*, will speak at the Bidwell House at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 9. The fourth speaker in The Bidwell Authors Series, Dr. Thorson will lead a walk and provide on-site analysis of some of the stone walls on the historic property. His book won the Connecticut Book Award for nonfiction. Last year, his book *Exploring Stone Walls: A Field Guide to New England's Stone Walls*, was published.

In addition to teaching in the Integrated Geosciences Program at UConn, he has a full calendar of speaking engagements and public preservation consultancies involving The Stone Wall Initiative (<http://stonewall.uconn.edu>), which he coordinates through the cooperation of the Connecticut State Museum.

Originally from the Midwest, Thorson arrived in New England in 1984 after living in Alaska, California, Washington, and Wisconsin; he has a PhD from the University of Washington and worked for the US Geological Survey from 1975 to 1980. He has been at UConn for more than twenty years and has been visiting professor at Yale and Dartmouth and a Fulbright Scholar at a university in Chile. Currently, Thorson writes a weekly Op-Ed column for *The Hartford Courant* on environmental affairs.

Thorson's visit to the Bidwell House is significant and timely because when the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell arrived here from Hartford, he had no idea he would be building stone walls, which were constructed throughout New England from 1750 to 1850. According to the museum director, Martha Dailey, many stone walls are crumbling and others are being moved off-site. "The history of stone walls, geologically and culturally, is an important consideration to residents of the Berkshires. It is one of the signature descriptions of New England life which must be preserved."

The book *Stone By Stone* will be available for purchase and signing by the author; it may be purchased online at alibris.com or at any bookstore. "There once may have been 250,000 miles of stone walls in America's Northeast.... They took three billion man-hours to build." A children's book, *Stone Wall Secrets*, written by Thorson and his wife, Kristine, will also be available.

Stone walls tell the story of how New England was formed. Thorson lives in Storrs, Connecticut, and says his mind "is often in early nineteenth-century New England." He will describe the geothermal forces that formed the stones, the tectonic movements bringing them to the surface, and how and why human labor built the many walls.

For further program information and directions to the Bidwell House Museum, call 413-528-6888 or visit www.bidwell-housemuseum.org. Admission will be \$10.00; refreshments will be available.

Monterey Photo Contest Scheduled for 2007

As you enjoy the beauty of Monterey this season, don't forget to carry along your camera. During Memorial Day weekend next year the Monterey Cultural Council will host a juried photo exhibition and contest that celebrates the beauty of our town throughout the year. Photos must be taken in Monterey, but can reflect any subject: our landscapes, our buildings, flora and fauna, or people. Any one photographer may submit up to three photos, and at least one by each entrant will be hung in the show at the discretion of the jury. In addition to the exhibition, 12 submissions will be selected for a calendar the Select Board is planning and some for the town's website. A prospectus will be available in early 2007 that will outline more details.



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Some wait for Porsches

(for Susan)

*Some wait for Porsches
Some wait for chocolate
Some wait for kidneys
 and some wait for shad flies
Some wait for a parking place
Some wait for the dog to take a shit
Some wait for the light to change
 and some wait for ramps and nettles to show
Some wait for God
Some wait for their God to bless their bombs
Some wait for their number to come up
 and some wait for the wind to die down
Some wait for the second coming
Some wait for the seventh son
Some wait to be among the chosen few
 and some wait for the sound of one firefly flying
Some wait for the drums to roll
Some wait for the Stratocaster solo
Some wait for the bugle boy to play taps
 and some wait for the trill of the wood thrush in the hills*

*Some wait for the nightly news
Some wait for their daily dues
Some wait for the weather report
 and some wait for the Great Dipper to pour forth
Some wait for famous futures
Some wait for factory fats to ring the bell
Some wait for someone to lend them a pen
 and some wait for no one
Some wait for the ring to slip on
Some wait for the nightgown to slip off
Some wait for the baby to slip a smile
 and some wait for the slip of the crescent waxing the western sky
Some wait for the ninety-mile-an-hour fastball
Some wait for the fast break and the slam dunk
Some wait for the hole in one
 and some wait to paddle the poet's pond
Some wait for the sun to come up
Some wait for the price to go down
Some wait for the fire next time
 and some wait for lilacs and Latour*

— R. Zukowski



Elemental

*I stand now, fingering the silky feathers at one end,
So soft. With a sip of my drink,
An inward breath and narrowing eye,
I draw in my arm and let fly the point, sharp and glittering.*

*Much like those who pulled the gleaming triggers
Felt, as the vile pieces flew towards the humanity.
Was theirs the seduction, the yearning need
To play with such power,*

*To feel the shiny appeal of the ball as it pierced the air,
As it flew from the end of the barrel,
Hurtling towards its target, to hear the whistling
Hit with the satisfying thump.*

*Now those 20 are remembered by a single stone
Carved in tribute to the cries of men
Who died for freedom and human dignity,
Their days echoing in the dreary mines.*

*The end enraptures me now, its skeletal form
Narrowing to a point, always dangerous.
It seems more clear, the power it has.
Again I pull in my arm, narrow my eyes,
“ThunkO” a perfect and exquisite hit.*

How satisfying, the molten world within.

—Tarsi Dunlop

LakeFest 2006: Drizzle Doesn't Dampen Spirit

To cancel, or not to cancel: that was the question. A small FLG (Friends of Lake Garfield) committee met on the beach at 10:00 on Saturday morning, August 19. After a weeklong spell of sublime sunshine, we wondered whether this day's weather would wash out LakeFest. Noon was the deadline for deciding what to do about the fireworks: postpone or "go." If we decided "go" and then got rained out, \$5500 worth of fireworks would have silently gone up in smoke. On the other hand, if we postponed the fireworks to a later date and the weather turned out to be fine, we'd be labeled as a band of bumbling boobies. So we made an executive decision. "Let's go on with the show ... and if we get rained out, we can always blame the weatherman." The rest is history.

Though it sprinkled on and off for a good part of the day, the Monterey Spirit prevailed.

Kicking off the day, the Hatchery hosted dozens of under-twelves for a fun fishing contest, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (Thank you LEROY THORPE & THE GROUP.) Dayla Ziegler landed first prize,

catching a 24-inch, 4.5-pound brown trout. (I might point out that that fish is larger than any fish this writer has ever caught in his fifty years of fishing. Way to go, Dayla!) Second and third prizes went to James Allentuck and Michael Lonaglin for a 4.04-pound and a 3.14-pound rainbow trout. Not too shabby. (Kids, do you have any tips for me?)

From 2:00 p.m. on, the beach was buzzing. Children proudly paraded painted faces. (Kudos to artists GINNY ALLENTUCK, JAMIE PUNTIN, CHRISTINE MARTIN, and SARAH & REBECCA CATHCART.) Kids' games launched laughter and miles of smiles. (Yeah to LINDA MULVEY.) Free motorboat rides escorted eager sailors all around our glorious Lake Garfield. (Congratulations captains STEVE SCHWARTZ, RICH EDELSTEIN, DAVID SHIFRIN, ELLIOT SMALL, BARRY JAFFE, RICHARD JAFFE, & HY ROSEN, whoever that is. And three cheers to FRAN & DEAN AMIDON & FAMILY for helping to launch this armada.) Since my boat sometimes moved at 30 mph in light rain, riders' faces felt pelted, as if by rice, adding to the excitement. Free kayak rides came courtesy of several good neighbors who donated a rainbow of kayaks for the afternoon. (Please forgive me, I don't have names of the kayak owners, but we must thank STEVE ARONSON & BOB CUTRICK for supervising the launchings.)



Dayla Ziegler with catch of the day.

As 5:00 p.m. rolled around, David Grover & the Big Bear Band rock 'n rolled in. Is that trio talented, or what? Their first hour was aimed at the kids ... bull's eye!

Then came 6:00 p.m. and the potluck dinner, an endless array of scrumptiousness to delight the appetite, from sumptuous salads, to fresh roasted turkey, to rhubarb pie. (I cried when my tummy ran out of room.) (Applause to coordinators and stagers KATHIE FROME, PAT EDELSTEIN, & MYRNA ROSEN.) (And a red hot hip-hip-hurray to the asbestos DELMARTIN, the bestest barbecuer in the



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LakeFest scenes: Sean Sylbert gives Hy Rosen a few boating pointers; face paintees Jake Martin (c), Evan Sylbert (r), and unidentified friend. Photos by (surprise) Jon Sylbert.

Berkshires, for cooking up those mouth-watering hotdogs and hamburgers.) After dinner, as the light began to fade, the campfire began to crackle and flicker on sticky little faces with marshmallow mustaches. (BOB RAUSCH, your patience and attention to this activity were heartwarming to behold. Bless you, BOB.)

At 7:30, Grover and the group orchestrated an encore performance to beat the band. Bopping, doo wopping, and singing show-stopping songs to thrill the throngs. (Say that three times fast.) (Bravo DAVID, KATHY JO, & TERRY A LA BERRY.) Just after 8:30 the Big Bear Band ushered in the big bang of the fireworks. What wonders graced the Monterey night sky ... lustrous crescendos of color ... cascading

crystalchrysanthemums ... jewels, sizzling and sparkling ... and finally the finale, scintillating the senses with exploding, superimposed kaleidoscopes.

What a day! And what a lot of work by a lot of people! Enormous appreciation goes to BRIAN PUNTIN, JULIO & PAT RODRIGUEZ, and EVE LABELLE, who were everywhere doing everything; KEN general-store BASLER, without whom we would not have eaten, nor drunk; RAY TRYON & GARETH BACKHAUS for supervising the fireworks and keeping us all safe and sound; to the SELECTBOARD for their resounding support of LakeFest; to all those helpers that we've left out, humble apologies and sincere "thank you's"; and a resounding accolade to the Czaress of

LakeFest, FLG's retiring president, JANET CATHCART, for undertaking and overseeing the whole shebang!

And now, perhaps, the biggest thank you of all. FLG reported, in a recent issue of the very valuable *Monterey News* (thank you, WILL MARSH) that this year's limited budget did not allow for LakeFest fireworks ... unless some Good Samaritan would step up with \$5000 to foot the bill. Only in my wildest dreams did I actually entertain the possibility of this happening. It happened. The behemoth "thank you" goes to JON & MYRA MAULTASCH. Talk about Monterey Spirit!

— Hy Rosen

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The Walking Ferns of Bullhead Rock

The lake was choppy yesterday as we beat our way against the wind, working west toward Bullhead Rock. Once around the corner into Parker's Cove, we knew we could relax, rest our paddles on the gunnels, and admire the cattails. Maybe we would even see a bullhead, as I used to years ago, canoeing in the same spot with my parents.

Lake Garfield is a family place for me. Not only did I grow up in it, so did my mother, and so did her uncle (who adopted her when she was little). So we have family stories, places that figure in our personal mythologies. My grown daughter Cora suggests we paddle over to Cutfoot Cove. The minute she speaks the name of this place, she evokes a tale of pedal injury that happened

to her grandmother, before either Cora or I were born. I was lamed myself in this lake when I was a kid, but it was a big rusty nail in an old board, just under the sand. We can show you just where that happened, close to several stumps I used to tie up to for hooking sunfish. My dad made me a splendid crutch using a stout sapling with a crosspiece and I hobbled around reminding myself of Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Yesterday we dug hard to round Bullhead Rock without being caught and pushed sideways right into it. I'd like to have sat quietly with my hand on the rock, reminiscing about the bullheads we used to see there, the little black hornpouts with their tiny barbels.

As we passed by we saw the greatest display of walking ferns ever! They have

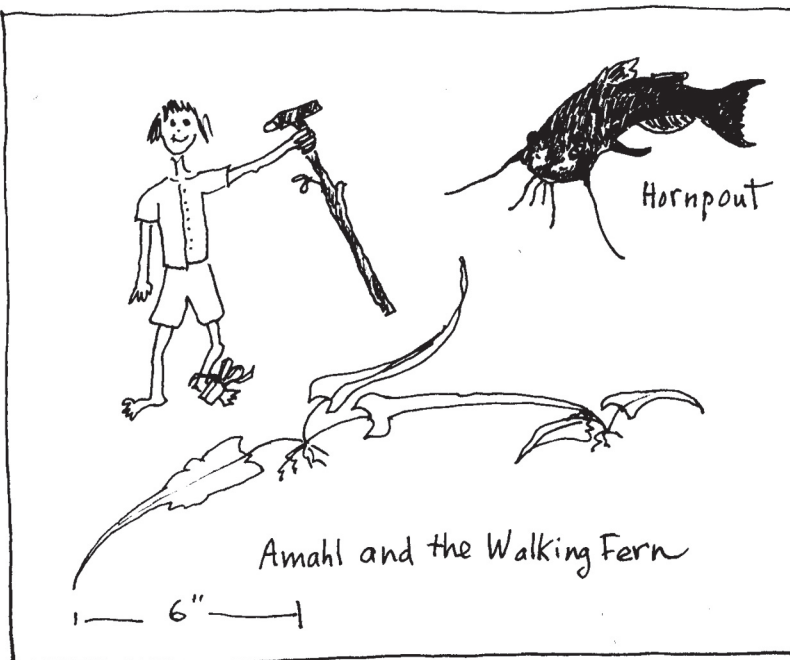
two species: the one here on our lake and another found in eastern Asia. Classifying these ferns is a challenge because they have crossed and formed hybrids, with eight different species derived from three original "parents." Our walking fern is one of the three.

Ferns have a sex life that is delightful, complex, and full of its own specialized vo-

cabulary. There are spores, indusia, prothalli, and of course eggs and sperm. Like many so-called primitive organisms, ferns have another reproductive plan that does not result in genetic mixing but does produce new generations. In *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, the walking fern, this plan is asexual reproduction by walking.

The leaves are long graceful triangles, narrow and arching. Where the tip touches down, a new plant will sprout if there is a little moisture. Bullhead Rock, when the whitecaps

are up, or even when the speedboats are racing about pulling water skiers, experiences a good amount of splash. So the ferns send out their graceful tips, set down tiny new plants, and then these will do the same. In this way, the



always grown on this rock, but some years by mid-August they are looking dry and discouraged. This year they are profuse and lively, filling the cracks and dimples in this weather-beaten hulk of a boulder.

Walking ferns are considered by some to be members of the genus *Asplenium*, which is to say the spleenworts, so called because of medicinal properties they may possess. Others put the walking ferns in the genus *Camptosorus*, which only has

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fern walks, plant to plant to plant. The individuals in the chain are genetically identical, so you could consider it to be one fern walking.

Sometimes I feel as if we are walking our family stories on this lake. Same family, same tale, touching down for a retelling in a slightly different place, keeping the thread alive over the generations. My parents showed me the walking ferns of Bullhead Rock and I have shown Cora. We have been over to Cutfoot Cove, too, and I've told her again how Mom stepped on that broken bottle. We have nurtured a fear of broken bottles ever since, in our family: just the wicked razor-sharp ring of glass sticking up in the sand, kind of like my rusty nail in its board.

That time, the nail time, Dad took me to Fairview for a tetanus shot, constructed my crutch, and we returned to the lake to finish out our few days of camping there. I am sure we paddled up to Parker's Cove, around Bullhead Rock and over the little black hornpouts, to admire the cattails where they meet the water in a yellow band. Once we saw an otter. I walked that story to Cora yesterday, too, and maybe she will be able to keep it going, like the ferns, as long as she gets just the right amount of splash.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Family Emergency Preparedness Day

The Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SBREPC) and the town of Great Barrington will be hosting a Family Emergency Preparedness Day on Saturday, September 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center of St. James Church in Great Barrington. Recent events have shown us the urgency of informed preparedness for our towns, and our families.

The day will be filled with both fun and interesting demonstrations and some very vital information for the safety of families in the event of a major emergency situation. Food and beverages will be available through the Kiwanis Food Van, and there will be free raffle drawings for some great emergency equipment, various giveaways, a Children's Activity Corner with coloring books and crayons and activity books, demonstrations by the State Police K9 corps, a table for information on preparing for the safety of your pets, demonstrations by the Medical Response Corp, Fire Departments and Police Departments of disaster-relief equipment and programs, and many more exciting and important things to see and do inside the center and outside in the parking lot.

Admission is free and includes registration for the raffle prizes. Parking will be on street as available. Disaster preparedness is the responsibility of every individual. Bring the whole family for a day of important information presented in an enjoyable and entertaining way.

Sample Bidwell House Colonial Garden Harvest

The colonial garden at The Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road in Monterey is ready for harvest and Ruth Green, gardener and owner of Green Landscape Designs has announced a free sampling of the produce on Saturday, September 2, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The talk on stone walls by Professor Robert Thorson has been rescheduled for September 9 (see p. 12).

The garden has been a project of Green and her staff and is a significant program event for the Bidwell House Museum, which seeks to re-create life in the Berkshires as it was lived by generations of the Bidwells on the expansive two-hundred-acre property. Heirloom seeds that date as far back as two hundred years were used in the planting of the garden, which is totally organic.

Seed selection was made by Ruth Green as she researched the types of plants that would have been cultivated in the mid-eighteenth century on a Berkshire homestead. Green will be on hand to answer questions about plants used for culinary, medicinal, and textile use.

For further information, call the museum at 413-528-6888 and visit the web site www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. The garden event is free and open to the public; tours of the house are available on the hour for regular admission.

For more information contact Lauren Smith, 413-854-9611

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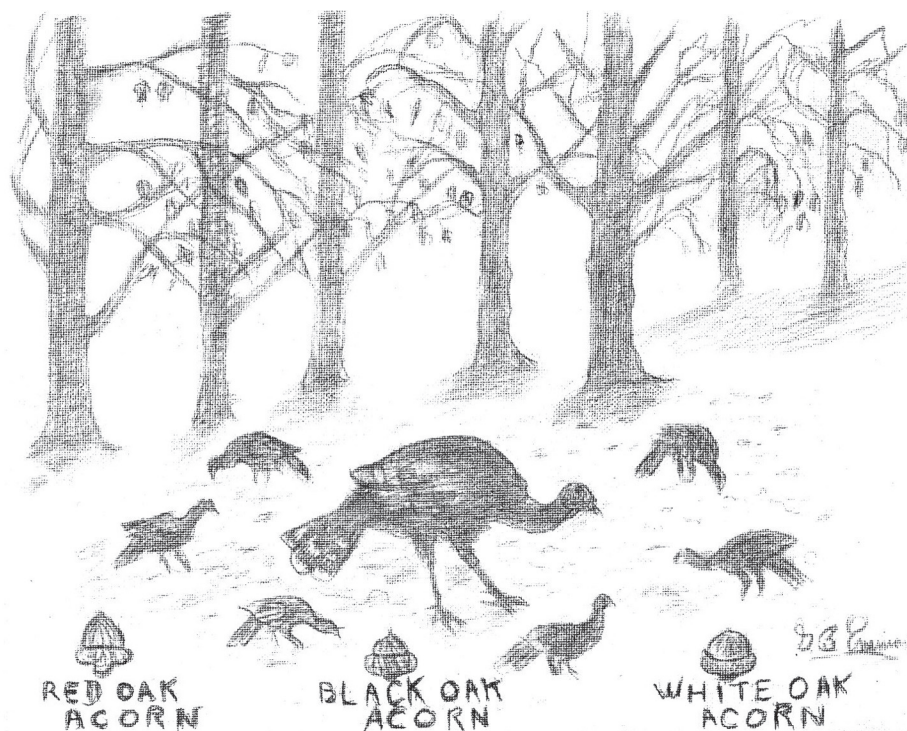
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Autumnal Harvest

With the seasonal equinox measurement just over the horizon, the oak trees are already dropping their acorns. When the sun comes up, only to go down that much sooner, as "The days grow short when you reach September" in the popular song of yesteryear, hen turkeys may be seen leading their fledgling flocks across the forest floor to forage from the cornucopia presented by a horn of deciduous plenty.

However there are fewer poults with each hen and they are smaller in size, having gotten off to a late start due to torrential spring rains. Judging from the hens that appeared in May and June with no chicks at all, the population renewal will be greatly reduced. As a safety valve, if the first clutch does not survive the cold and dampness of pneumonia hens will re-nest, but as with all ground-nesting birds, including partridge and woodcock, weather is a factor.

The cycles of population often seem to peak about every eight to ten years, somehow connected to sun spots, or solar explosions every twenty years. These have an effect on Earth much later, causing dry spells on a major and minor cycle every ten years, resulting in dry ideal conditions. The severity of winters can have an immediate positive effect by killing off all the lice that might impede growth of chicks the following summer.



Still the wild turkey should continue its remarkable comeback, rising up like a phoenix from the ashes of extinction less than fifty years ago. As a living symbol of annual harvest dating back to the first Thanksgiving, it also has a direct connection to our Native American heritage. In 1621, the celebration feast included corn, squash, beans, turkey, venison, clams, and waterfowl, everything the new arrivals had been taught to grow and harvest by their indigenous benefactors.

As the progression of the season becomes more pronounced, an air of intensity rises with the sun, revealing a morning

mist over low-lying meadows, lakes, and ponds. Songbirds seem to be in a feeding frenzy, perhaps storing up for energy for their migration. So once again the visible transition that takes place around us marks both a beginning and an end. We are carried forward into the time of autumn harvest, then the glory of Indian summer, but we are also back in time to the roots of our historical survival and subsequent celebration three hundred and seventy-five years ago. Let us not forget who we are, where we came from, and how we got this far, living off the land.

— George Emmons

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HOURS OF OPERATION: 8 am to 6 pm Mon.-Fri. Door to Door Transportation Available

Library Notes

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the summer reading program. Our thanks to the General Store for providing ice cream for all those hardworking readers. Many of them came to our six children's programs. We are especially grateful to Annabel and Carol Edelman, Myrna Rosen, and Denise Andrus for volunteering to tell stories and lead the kids in singing and making crafts. We're already signing up volunteers for next summer, so if you're inclined please come in and discuss it with us.

Our youth book discussion group is starting up again on Monday, September 11, at 7 p.m. We are expanding the ages to make sure we keep those older readers who had so much fun and allow for younger children to participate as well. Children must be 7 and able to read independently. The core of our books to discuss will come from the list nominated for the 2006–2007 Massachusetts Children's Book Award. Students from the fourth through the sixth grades will vote in late winter on their top choices. We have the nomination list available in the library, as well as many of the books. It's not too early to get started. Franny Huberman will lead the group again. Call the library or stop in if you have any questions.

Finally, our DVD collection has been slowly growing, thanks to donations and our own acquisitions, in addition to what we borrow from the bookmobile. We're

glad to accept donations of DVDs, and the same is true of audiobooks on CD.

Recent Acquisitions

Adult Fiction

Closing Costs, Seth Margolis
Dying Light, Stuart MacBride
Golden Country, Jennifer Gilmore
Mistress, Anita Nair
Never Fear, Scott Frost
Triptych, Karin Slaughter
Assassins' Gallery, David Robbins
Cottagers, Marshall Klimasewski

Adult Nonfiction

Big Ripoff: How Big Business and Big Government Steal Your Money, Timothy Carney
I Planet: A Celebration Of Biodiversity, Nicholas Hulot

Children's

Magician's Boy, Susan Cooper
Legend of Bass Reeves, Gary Paulsen
Moon, Tracy Pearson
Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko

DVDs

Eight Below
Hoot
My Dog Skip
Syriana
Cape of Good Hope
Good Woman
Matador

— Mark Makuc

CHP Family Network Playgroups

New Marlborough Library Story Hour, Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.

Otis Playgroup, Otis Town Hall, Fridays, 10 a.m.–noon.

Family Center Playgroup, Great Barrington Family Center, Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Sandisfield Playgroup at the Sandisfield Community Center, Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

For more playgroups and information call 528-0721.



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 Sun, 8:00 am–noon



The Lazy Days of August ...

It is picture perfect really, the sun setting over the lake with the long stream of orange-red light racing toward you. The warm days are tinged with the promise of fall, but that does not rest heavily on the minds of many who relish these last lazy days of summer. The surrounding towns, woods, and people take on a flavor that leaves a sweet aftertaste. Traffic speaks of Tanglewood, coolers with icy drinks wind their way down the sand to a cluster of chairs and as camps end children enjoy a few weeks of sleeping in.

For college students like me, these last days mean the calm before the storm. These rolling days carry the final stages of our gradual return to centered selves. This breath of air is when our eyes learn again how to open on their own accord, where our minds can both rest and work in harmony, and when our lives transition between inner child and emerging adult. This time last year I had never been to college—that's a strange thought. What was I like a year ago? Sometimes I can barely remember because so much has happened since then.

I returned from my busy summer in NYC and decided to take the time to see family and friends as well as decompress. I can't help examining my life, sometimes to an obsessive degree. I spend a great

deal of time these days in my car driving to have lunch with friends, see a movie, or go swimming. I love having some down time because during it I get excited about the coming year. I cannot remember the last time I truly had four weeks like this: no summer reading, no urgent matters to attend to. I hear from so many people that life just gets more hectic as it goes on. I'm sure that's true, and I watch it happen. I would not change a thing about my life thus far, and although I may have a few regrets, I'd rather learn from them than wish they had never happened.

Preparing for my return to school will begin soon. For now I'm grateful I have time to reflect, to relax, and that I can look at my life with no pressure and love what I see. I read an article in the *New York Times* recently that described how the number of vacation days for the American worker is declining. When I sit at the General Store watching people chat with coffee in hand or come in dressed for the beach, the belief that people need time to play is only cemented in my mind. Perhaps it's saddening to realize that at this age, but I would rather be enlightened now than later.

The August days came softly and will go out with a bang, but that has not happened yet. I'll embrace these last lazy days of summer with open arms.

— Tarsi Dunlop

Sandisfield Arts Center September Events

On Saturday, September 16, the Sandisfield Arts Center will present Kitchen Ceile, an evening of Irish song and dance. The trio of Kitchen Ceile will perform a free concert of lilting jigs and driving reels, as well as stately waltzes and slow airs. The musicians are George Wilson on fiddle, banjo, and vocals, Dora Hast on tin whistle and recorders, and Stan Scott on guitar, mandolin, banjo, and vocals.

On Saturday, September 23: Classical guitarist Joel Brown returns to the Intimate Lower Level Café for another delightful evening. Brown's eclectic career has taken him to England to record with the London Symphony, to Carnegie Hall with soprano Dawn Upshaw, and to recital performances with Frederika von Stade. He has appeared at many prestigious venues, but is best known to Sandisfield audiences as a longtime collaborator with Bill Crofut.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. For more information or reservations call 413-258-4100, or visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

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14	ROBIN O'HERIN
21	MARTINA LASKA
28	JOEL BLUMERT

7:00-9:00 PM **NO COVER**

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Musicians & Writers at New Marlborough Music & More

The 2006 Music & More arts series will bring renowned musicians and writers to New Marlborough for three events in September.

From intensely romantic to exotic, from humorous to powerful, the diverse moods of Russian classical music will be explored in "The Russians Are Coming" on Saturday, September 9, at 4:30 p.m. The performance will contrast the intensely romantic songs by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov with Stravinsky's biting *Pribaoutky*, a folk-derived song cycle. Works by Taneyev, Khachaturian, and Prokofiev will give a picture of Russian music from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The music will be performed by Jack Brown, baritone; William Hagenah, clarinet; Harold Lewin, piano; and the Forster Trio, made up of Joel Pitchon, violin, Ron Gorevic, viola, and Marie-Volcy Pelletier, cello.

On Saturday, September 16, at 4:30 p.m., the world-famous Manhattan String Quartet, hailed by Michael Steinberg of the *Boston Globe* as "a national treasure," will perform Beethoven, Ives, and Shostakovich. Currently celebrating its 36th season, the quartet is considered one of America's leading ensembles. Well known for its performances of twentieth-century classics, the Manhattan String Quartet has established a significant international

reputation as today's preeminent interpreter of Shostakovich's fifteen string quartets.

The series ends on Saturday, September 30, at 4:30 p.m. with "Award-Winning Authors," readings and discussion by three nationally prominent writers: George Packer, Karen Russell, and Charles C. Mann. Mitchell Levitas of the *New York Times* will host the discussion. Packer is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*; his most recent book is the highly praised *The Assassins Gate: America in Iraq*. Russell's novel *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves* was hailed as "a devastatingly beautiful debut by a powerful new writer"; she has been featured in the debut fiction issue of *The New Yorker*. Mann is a correspondent for *Science* and *The Atlantic Monthly* whose most recent book is *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*.

All events will take place at the historic Meeting House on Route 57 in New Marlborough. A reception will follow each event.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and members of the New Marlborough Village Association (NMVA). Children under 12 are free. For information, reservations, and NMVA membership, call 413-229-2785 or go to www.newmarlborough.org.

Audience members can also enjoy a 10 percent discount on a post-event dinner at New Marlborough's Inn on the Green; reservations for dinner are required.


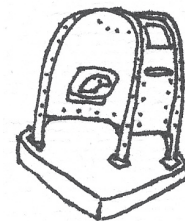
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In Praise of the General Store


To the Editor:

I would just like to thank Kenn Basler and everyone who works at the General Store for everything they do during the summer months. The General Store seems to be the nucleus of this community in so many ways. There is the great coffee, wines, Thursday night music, ice cream, center of information as well as gossip, sandwiches, etc. Kenn has brought in "upscale" potato chips, beer, salsa, and other products as well. I hope that during the fall, winter, and spring months, when we second-home owners come on weekends, we patronize the General Store. It is the heartbeat of our community. It would be terrible to come to Monterey and not have the General Store as envisioned by Kenn.

— Cheryl Zellman



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Lee Rogers



The thrill of the grass: Monterey youth baseball, under the guidance of Jim Edelman, had another successful season.

Keswick Plans Harvest Day

On October 21, New England Keswick, a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian youth camp and retreat center, will celebrate its 65th anniversary in Monterey with its all-day 2nd Annual Harvest Festival extravaganza at 73 Chestnut Hill Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's Keswick Harvest Festival will feature autumn culinary treats, live music, hayrides, pumpkin and face painting, local crafts, apple bobbing, and other family activities. A cookout menu will be available for lunch from 11-2. Please call the office at 413-528-3604 for more information.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Readers like you make it possible for us to continue publishing. We know readers receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. Sept. 4): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Every Saturday morning through September 9: Lake Garfield Torah Group meets. For information call 413-528-3193 or 413-567-8171.

Saturday, September 2:

I Love Monterey Day activities all day. Tag sale to benefit Community Center, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Firehouse Pavilion. Parade, 11:30 a.m.; forms at Sandisfield Road at 11 a.m. Post-parade lunch, 12–1:30 p.m., Firehouse Pavilion. Potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Firehouse Pavilion, followed by music and dancing at Shindig. See pp. 10, 11.

Free sampling of colonial garden harvest, 1–3 p.m., Bidwell House. See p. 17.

Sunday, September 3: Noted *New Yorker* writer George Packer speaks at Monterey Meetinghouse to benefit Community Center, 4 p.m. See p. 9.

Friday, September 8: Special Berkshire County schools production of *Wizard of Oz* to benefit school endowment programs, 7:30 p.m., Berkshire Theatre Festival. Repeated Saturday, September 9, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. See p. 11.

Saturday, September 9: Talk on stone

Town Hall Closed 8/28–9/4

The Town Secretary will not be available and the Town Hall will be closed from Monday August 28 – Monday September 4, reopening on Tuesday September 5.

walls by Robert Thorson, professor of geology and author, Bidwell House, 10:30 a.m. See p. 12.

Performance of Russian classical music, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 21.

Monday, September 11: Youth book discussion group meets, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 19.

Thursday, September 14: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses.

Saturday, September 16: Manhattan String Quartet, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 21.

Saturday, September 23: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Al Brozek. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

Saturday, September 30:

Family Emergency Preparedness Day, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., St. James Church, Great Barrington. See p. 17.

The Observer

July 26–August 25

High temp. (8/2, 3)..... 90°
Low temp. (8/13) 43°
Avg. high temp. 78.2°
Avg. low temp. 56.0°
Avg. temp. 67.1°
Total rainfall..... 3.65 in.
Precipitation occurred on 16 days.

Writers George Packer, Karen Russell, & Charles C. Mann, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 21.

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